

Music Development Plan: JAMES CALVERT SPENCE COLLEGE, AMBLE

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-2026
Date this summary was published	February 2026
Date this summary will be reviewed	September 2026
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Frith
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	Mrs Yuill Director of Create
Name of local music hub	Music Partnership North

This is a summary of how JCSC delivers music education to all our pupils across our music curriculum, extra/co-curricular provision and musical experiences.

Here at JCSC, we aim to nurture the inherent musicality of every student and help them develop their potential as singers and musicians. We believe that music is a universal language that everyone can access, take part in and respond to. Within our 2025-2026 curriculum, we look to develop our pupils' musical skills, creativity, and confidence by encouraging them to express themselves freely and confidently through a range of performing, composition, responding to a range of musical genres, from pop-culture to jazz and video-game music.

As part of the Create directorate of art, construction, design technology, drama, fashion, food, graphics, hair and beauty, performing arts and photography, we believe that a high-quality music education is an entitlement for all young people and is essential for personal, social, moral, spiritual, cultural and creative development.

We believe that a music education will enable young people of all ages to be confident citizens, flexible thinkers and future professionals, contributing to the culture, creativity, economic success, leisure, material and emotional wellbeing and wellness of our society within both national and global contexts.

We feel a music education prepares us all for life in modern Britain and within international communities through study that promotes tolerance, respect and social, spiritual, moral and cultural understanding.

Music embodies some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality music education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own music. As pupils progress, they should be able to think critically and develop a more rigorous understanding of music. They should also know how music both reflects and shapes our history, and contributes to the culture, creativity and wealth of our nation.

Curriculum music

At James Calvert Spence College, we provide a broad and balanced, ambitious music curriculum for all pupils. Our music curriculum builds upon the knowledge and skills pupils have developed in first school through a well-planned and sequenced curriculum. Our music curriculum plans follow the National Curriculum as well as drawing upon best practice within the field of music. We draw on evidence-based research to ensure our music curriculum is high quality and meets the needs of our pupils. We provide regular opportunities to revisit learning, so it becomes embedded in our pupils' long-term memory.

Our Music Curriculum plan is:

<https://www.jcsc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Assessment-Overviews-24-25/curriculum-overview-performing-arts.pdf>

<https://www.jcsc.co.uk/btec-performing-arts/>

Our curriculum is coherently planned and sequenced towards providing opportunities in music to: [Source: Education Inspection Framework]

- To perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions, including the works of the great composers and musicians
- For students to develop foundational musical skills by learning to play a variety of instruments, including singing, keyboards and percussion instruments, therefore fostering technical proficiency, creativity, ensemble awareness, and a lifelong appreciation of music-making.
- To understand and explore how music is created, produced and communicated, including through the inter-related dimensions: pitch, duration, dynamics, tempo, timbre, texture, structure and appropriate musical notations.

Examples of on-going assessment and feedback in lessons

- Verbal feedback by the teacher to the whole class which students act on in the lesson
- Pupils self-assess or peer-assess work with a clear framework guiding them through this.
- Teachers circulate to give 'LIVE' and immediate feedback as pupils are working independently
- Pupils may complete mini quizzes or retrieval activities that revisit prior learning and receive verbal feedback
- Use of tailored questioning by the teacher

Music tuition

Once again, our pupils are able to sign up for peripatetic music lessons through Music Partnership North which enables them to receive lessons from external music teachers on a number of instruments such as vocal, woodwind, percussion, strings, guitar and keyboard. These lessons are usually held 1-1 with the teacher once a week, however we also offer shared lessons if requested. Lessons take place during the school day, with up to 33 weeks of tuition across the school year. Support for the cost of these lessons is available through Pupil Premium.

<https://beta.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/music-partnership-north/music-tuition>

One-to-One Lessons:

- 30 minutes - £19.95 per lesson
- 20 minutes - £13.86 per lesson

Group Lessons (a great way to learn with friends):

- Group of 2 - £10.37 per lesson / each
- Group of 3 or more - £7.13 per lesson / each

Extra-curricular music

All pupils at JCSC can partake in our school shows. Our successful performance of Harry Rings Lord of the Potters in 2024 and our performance of Murder Mayhem at Mayview Manor in 2025/2026.

We also have a KS4 led Rock band club at lunchtimes and KS4 intervention afterschool on a Tuesday where students can continue to develop their talents and performance disciplines through structured extra rehearsal time.

Peripatetic music and singing lessons are run here at JCSC through Music Partnership North. Interested in Instrumental and vocal lessons for your child? See our flyer below and sign your child up today!

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Music%20partnership%20North/Secondary-Music-Tuition-Parent-Billed-Tuition-Flyer-live-links.pdf>

Musical events and experiences

Each year our KS3 music and KS4 Performing Arts pupils have the opportunity to attend a show at a local theatre. This year we have organised for them to attend a pantomime of Jack and the Beanstalk at The Phoenix Theatre in December.

Within school, all pupils from KS3 to KS5 are welcome to perform in, support or watch any of our performances here in school. We promote these extracurricular clubs and events through our music lessons, form time, posters and JCSC social media.

In the future

In 2026/27 we are looking to start a Ukelele Band with help from Music Partnership North's Instruments for Schools scheme, as well as encourage our musical pupils to put on a Variety Show to showcase their singing, musical and performing prowess.

We are also hoping to start a Djembe band and put on a showcase of KS4 performances and further promote musical tuition, specifically with new pupils.

In 2026/27 we are hoping to encourage our musically minded Y11 pupils to take music in KS5 as part of their BTEC in Performing Arts.

Further information

Music Partnership North

<https://beta.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/music-partnership-north>

<https://www.newcastlemusicservice.co.uk/mpn-northumberland>

Group Ensembles

<https://beta.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/music-partnership-north/music-groups-ensembles-workshops>

The Importance of Music

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/180973/DFE-00086-2011.pdf